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1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim ~~211~~, comprising ~~a first blade and a second blade~~, the first blade and the second blade being movable relative to each other, the first blade having a first surface and the second blade having a second surface, the first surface and the second surface facing away from each other and being adapted to engage tissue for retraction.

13. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 12, comprising an actuator for moving the first blade and the second blade relative to one another.

14. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 12, comprising a ~~raekcrossbeam~~, and wherein the first blade and the second blade are attached to the ~~raekcrossbeam~~.

15. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 12, comprising a first arm and a second arm, the first blade being carried on the first arm and the second blade being carried on the second arm.

16. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 12, comprising a ~~raekcrossbeam~~, and wherein the first arm and the second arm are attached to the ~~raekcrossbeam~~, at least one of the first arm and the second arm being movable relative to the ~~raekcrossbeam~~.

17. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 12, comprising a first arm and a second arm, the first blade being carried on the first arm and the second blade being carried on the second arm.

18. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim ~~211~~, comprising at least one arm, the at least one arm having the first a-blade carried thereon.

19. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 18, comprising a first arm having the a-first blade carried thereon and a second arm having a second blade carried thereon, and wherein the first blade and the second blade are movable relative to each other, the first blade having a first

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surface and the second blade having a second surface, the first surface and the second surface facing away from each other and being adapted to engage tissue for retraction.

20. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 21~~18~~, wherein ~~the at least one arm has an opening sized to retain the suture stay therein~~ has a plurality of slots.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The retractor of claim 20,~~ A retractor, comprising at least one arm having a cavity, a first blade attached to the arm for retracting tissue, and a suture stay removably disposed at least partially within the cavity, wherein the suture stay having at least one slot~~has a plurality of slots~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 20~~21~~, wherein the at least one arm has a plurality of channels aligned with the plurality of slots when the suture stay is retained within the opening.

23. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 21~~20~~, wherein the suture stay has a body having a first surface, a second surface and a slot configured to removably receive a suture therein.

24. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 23, wherein ~~the body has a first surface and a second surface, and the slot extends from the first surface to the second surface~~.

25. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 23, wherein the body has a top surface, and the slot extends from the top surface into the body and from the first surface to the second surface.

26. (Currently Amended) The retractor of claim 22, wherein the suture stay has a body having a first surface and a second surface, and at least one of the plurality of slots ~~the slot~~ extends from the first surface to the second surface.

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27. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 26, wherein the body has a top surface and a bottom surface, and the slot extends from the top surface into the body.
28. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 27, comprising a clamp, the clamp coupled to the body adjacent to the slot.
29. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 28, wherein the clamp is configured to engage and retain a suture thread within the slot.
30. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 28, wherein the clamp is configured to permit a suture to pass be drawn through the slot in a first direction, but prevent the suture from being drawn through the slot in a direction substantially opposite the first direction.
31. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 27, wherein the body has an aperture extending from the bottom surface into the body.
32. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 31, wherein the aperture is generally disposed transverse to the slot.
33. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 32, wherein the body has a bore that extends from the bottom surface into the body and communicates with the aperture.
34. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 33, wherein the aperture communicates with the slot.
35. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 34, comprising a clamp, the clamp coupled to the body adjacent to the slot.
36. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 35, wherein the clamp is configured to engage and retain a suture thread within the slot.

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37. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 36, wherein the clamp is configured to permit a suture to pass be drawn through the slot in a first direction, but prevent the suture from being drawn through the slot in a direction substantially opposite the first direction.
38. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 37, wherein the clamp is configured to be at least partially disposed within the aperture and the slot.
39. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 38, wherein the clamp comprises a post and a leaf extending from the post.
40. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 39, wherein the post is configured to be at least partially retained within the bore and the leaf is configured to be at least partially retained within the aperture.
41. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 40, wherein the leaf is deflected to permit the leaf to be at least partially contained within the aperture.
42. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 41, wherein the body comprises at least one inner wall formed by the slot and wherein the leaf has an outer edge that engages the at least one inner wall when the leaf is at least partially contained within the aperture.
43. (Previously Added) The retractor of claim 41, wherein the body comprises at least one inner wall formed by the slot and wherein the leaf has an outer edge that engages the at least one inner wall when the leaf is at least partially contained within the aperture.
44. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the suture stay is substantially disposed within the cavity.
45. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the suture stay is substantially disposed within the cavity.

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46. (New) The retractor of claim 21, wherein the arm has a surface from which the cavity extends, and the suture stay has a surface that is substantially aligned with the surface of the arm when the suture stay is disposed within the cavity.